

**MINUTES
ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
APRIL 7, 2014**

Mr. Nofi called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. in the auditorium of the Rocky Point High School.

Present: Michael Nofi, President
Diane Burke, Vice President
John Lessler, Trustee (arriving at 6:05 p.m.)
Scott Reh, Trustee
Susan Sullivan, Trustee
Michael F. Ring, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Deborah De Luca, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent
Gregory Hilton, School Business Official
Susan Wilson, Executive Director for Educational Services
Patricia Jones, District Clerk

Absent: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:02 p.m. Diane Burke made a motion and Susan Sullivan seconded to adjourn to Executive Session to conduct tenure reviews and to discuss confidential personnel matters pertaining to select employees.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:11 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Nofi invited Dr. Ring to begin with the Superintendent's Report.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Ring announced that due to an oversight, the high school robotics team, Quantum Chaos, was inadvertently omitted from last month's recognition meeting and would be recognized at this evening's meeting. Dr. Ring also reminded meeting attendees that the annual Budget Hearing will be held at 7:00 p.m. on May 6, 2014 in the high school auditorium. This hearing is the last in a series of workshops held in recent months.

Dr. Ring invited Mr. DeBenedetto to the podium to recognize the members of the Quantum Chaos Robotics Team and their advisors, Mrs. Burns and Dr. Pinkenburg.

Mr. DeBenedetto advised that at a competition held at Syosset High School, Quantum Chaos placed second for the “Inspire” award, an award presented to the team that truly embodies the challenge of the FTC program. The team advanced to the NYC/Long Island Championship Tournament. Out of thirty-eight top New York City and Long Island teams, Quantum Chaos finished fifteenth in the robot competition. Mr. DeBenedetto invited team members Barbara Feng, Nick Hackett, Ian Holland, Evan Komorowski, Evan Oatis, Nick Roalef and Brendan Yilmaz, together with advisors Mrs. Burns and Dr. Pinkenburg, to the podium in acknowledgement of their achievements.

Dr. Ring offered his congratulations to the students and their most supportive parents. Dr. Ring also thanked the members of the Board of Education for its support of the addition of the high school robotics program. Noting how successful the students were in their inaugural season, Dr. Ring expressed his pride in their accomplishments.

Mr. DeBenedetto invited the top three students of the class of 2014 to the podium to be introduced and recognized for their academic accomplishments: Olivia Elber, Valedictorian; Evan Komorowski, Salutatorian; and Troy Richards, Exhortation Speaker.

Dr. Ring extended his congratulations to the students and once again expressed his pride in their success.

Dr. Ring invited Mr. DeBenedetto to return to the podium to begin the principal reports.

Mr. John DeBenedetto, Principal, Rocky Point High School

- The third quarter report cards will be posted to the portal on Friday, April 11th.
- The Science Club, led by advisor Mr. Gabrinowitz, will be presenting at Stony Brook University’s Earthstock Festival, a festival created to develop ecological awareness through environmental organizations. The students will present their development of a solar-powered phone charger at the festival on April 25th.
- The Pocket Theatre proudly presents its spring 2014 production of *Guest in the House*. Performances will be held on April 24th, 25th and 26th at 7 p.m. Twenty-six students will participate in this production. Mr. DeBenedetto thanked Mrs. Ely and Mrs. Wade for their dedication to the students and their commitment towards the continued success of the Pocket Theatre.
- The String Ensemble and Woodwind Quartet, under the direction of Mr. Butcher, have been invited to perform at the Rocky Point Lions Club annual Food Tasting event at the East Wind.
- In partnership with Habitat for Humanity, the Interact Club, led by Mrs. Messinetti, continued with the rebuilding of a home from the foundation up. Students insulated, spackled and sheetrocked the home on Saturday, April 5th.
- The fourth annual Spring Fest is scheduled for Saturday, April 26th. The lacrosse, softball, baseball and tennis teams will compete and carnival-type games will be offered in the high school parking lot. Mr. DeBenedetto invited all to attend and show “Eagle Pride” during this family-oriented day.
- The National Honor Society induction ceremony is scheduled for April 30th at 7:00 p.m. Ninety-one juniors and seniors will be inducted.

Dr. Scott O'Brien, Principal, Rocky Point Middle School

- Dr. O'Brien congratulated the Quantum Chaos team members and the 2014 valedictorian, salutatorian and exhortation speaker for their impressive accomplishments.
- The dramatic production, *Alice in Wonderland, Jr.* was a great success. Dr. O'Brien thanked the parent volunteers, students and staff for a wonderful job. Dr. O'Brien offered special thanks to Mrs. Collier and Mr. Maggio for their contributions to the production.
- Parent packets containing information about sixth grade orientation are available for pick-up in the guidance office. Dr. O'Brien thanked Mrs. Salbu for her support of both the parent orientation and the student orientation.
- The physical education teachers will be supporting the American Heart Association as they help teach students how to take care of their hearts through the Hoops for Heart program. On April 9th and 10th the students will be jumping and shooting to raise money for this cause. Dr. O'Brien thanked Mr. Donadoni and the entire physical education department of the middle school for their support of the program.

Ms. Linda Towlen, Principal, Joseph A. Edgar School

- The students took the New York State ELA assessments on April 1st, 2nd and 3rd. The New York State mathematics assessments will be administered on April 30th, May 1st and May 2nd.
- During the month of May JAE will host a blood drive, In addition, the Spring Concert is planned for May as is the Art and Technology Show and the Mini-Relay for Life.
- Ms. Towlen thanked everyone for their support throughout this school year.

Mrs. Virginia Kelly-Gibbons, Principal, Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School

- Noting that the students thoroughly enjoyed seeing *Alice in Wonderland, Jr.* at the middle school, Mrs. Kelly-Gibbons thanked Dr. O'Brien for once again inviting the students to the annual middle school play.
- The staff and students successfully completed the first emergency movement/evacuation drill from FJC to the high school.
- The Go Math! Parent University was held on March 27th. Both FJC and JAE parents participated in a presentation about the new Common Core Learning Standards for math and how Go Math! supports that learning.
- Plans are in place for the upcoming evening Kindergarten Parent Orientation scheduled for April 23rd at 6:30 p.m.
- The second grade chorus, under the direction of Ms. Kenwood, is currently rehearsing for this year's concert, *Soaring Sounds*, scheduled for May 8th.
- Mrs. Buonconsiglio and Mr. West are preparing for the Spring Art Show scheduled for May 1st.
- The Garden Club and the Science Club have begun again following their winter hiatus.
- Kindergarten screening is scheduled to begin on April 23rd.

- On behalf of her staff, Mrs. Kelly-Gibbons wished everyone an enjoyable spring recess.

Mr. Nofi thanked the principals for their reports and announced there would be a two-minute break in order to allow those students and their families who wished to leave prior to the business portion of the meeting to do so.

Mr. Nofi opened the floor to meeting attendees for questions and/or comments pertaining to meeting agenda items.

- In reference to the adoption of the Revised and Updated Next STEP Five Year Strategic Plan, Mr. Sean Callahan asked if the district consulted with teachers and parents as was done previously and if there were substantial changes made to the plan. Mr. Nofi advised that committee members and teachers were consulted and there were no substantial changes since the last update in June 2013. Dr. Ring advised that the Action Plan identifies each of the participants. Dr. Ring also advised that there was a lower level of participation than in previous years. Dr. Ring asked Dr. DeLuca to provide an overview of the changes and Dr. DeLuca complied. In response to Mr. Callahan's inquiry concerning any increase in annual costs for the revisions/updates, Dr. Ring remarked that each item of the plan has identified funding and the sources of said funding. Dr. Ring further advised that this information is referenced in Section FS-1 of the plan, Fiscal Sustainability: Resource Allocation.
- Mrs. Heely asked if community members are aware that they are invited to participate in the Next STEP Plan. Mrs. Heely suggested the district should make an effort to publicize the opportunity to participate in this important endeavor. Dr. Ring thanked Mrs. Heely for her suggestion and indicated information pertaining to community involvement with the Next STEP Plan could be included in the Soaring Newsletter, ConnectEd and the district's website.

There were no further questions or comments.

MINUTES

Upon a motion made by Diane Burke and seconded by Susan Sullivan, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minutes of the following Board of Education Meeting be accepted as presented: **Regular Meeting, March 17, 2014.**

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

TREASURER'S REPORTS

Upon a motion made by Susan Sullivan and seconded by Scott Reh, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the Treasurer's Reports for the month of February 2014 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

EXTRA-CLASSROOM ACTIVITY ACCOUNT TREASURER REPORT

Upon a motion made by Scott Reh and seconded by John Lessler, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the Extra-Classroom Activity Treasurer Report for the month of February 2014 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Upon a motion made by John Lessler and seconded by Diane Burke, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the Financial Reports for the month of February 2014 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

BUDGET TRANSFER SUMMARY – MARCH 2014

Upon a motion made by Diane Burke and seconded by Susan Sullivan, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the March 2014 Budget Transfer Summary Report.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET AND PROPERTY TAX REPORT CARD

Upon a motion made by Susan Sullivan and seconded by Scott Reh, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopts the Rocky Point Union Free School District Budget for the 2014-2015 fiscal year pursuant to the Education Law Section 1716 in the amount of \$76,886,042 and the Property Tax Report Card, as attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

2014-2015 BOCES COOPERATIVE BIDDING SERVICES PURCHASING CONTRACT

Upon a motion made by Scott Reh and seconded by John Lessler, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the resolution to participate in the BOCES Cooperative Bidding Purchasing Program for the 2014-2015 fiscal year on an “as needed” basis as per the attached Joint Municipal Cooperative Bidding Program Resolution (A).

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

SPECIAL EDUCATION CONTRACT – RIVERVIEW SCHOOL

Upon a motion made by John Lessler and seconded by Diane Burke, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes the President of the Board of Education to enter into a contract with Riverview School for a special education student’s services as required under applicable Individual Educational Programs, applicable law, and/or district policy.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

SURPLUS TEXTBOOKS

Upon a motion made by Diane Burke and seconded by Susan Sullivan, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves for surplus the following attached list of textbooks.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

DONATION OF METAL DISPLAY RACKS

Upon a motion made by Susan Sullivan and seconded by Scott Reh, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the donation of twelve (12) 2 feet by six feet metal art display racks valued at approximately \$100.00.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Nofi thanked Mr. Walt Adamko for his generous donation.

DONATION FROM GREAT AMERICAN OPPORTUNITIES

Upon a motion made by Scott Reh and seconded by John Lessler, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves and accepts the donation from Great American Opportunities in the amount of \$12.00, as per the attached.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rocky Point Union Free School District hereby approves the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to increase the general fund budget by \$12.00, as a result of the donation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following budget code be adjusted to reflect that increase:

A 2110 500 02 0000 \$12.00

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

DONATION FROM HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY – BETHPAGE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Upon a motion made by John Lessler and seconded by Diane Burke, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves and accepts the donation from Hofstra University – Bethpage Credit Union in the amount of \$200.00, as per the attached.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rocky Point Union Free School District hereby approves the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to increase the general fund budget by \$200.00, as a result of the donation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following budget code be adjusted to reflect that increase:

A 2110 500 03 0000 \$200.00

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mrs. Burke offered her congratulations to high school students Amanda Wells and Alison Mayer for their *Celebration of Suburban Diversity 2013 Essay Scholarship Contest* essay entries that resulted in this donation.

ADOPTION OF THE REVISED AND UPDATED NEXT STEP FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

Upon a motion made by Diane Burke and seconded by Susan Sullivan, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopts the revised and updated Next STEP five year strategic plan as heretofore submitted.

Motion carried 4-1

Mrs. Sullivan voted nay.

APPROVAL OF A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE ROCKY POINT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE ROCKY POINT SCHOOL-RELATED PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

Upon a motion made by Susan Sullivan and seconded by Scott Reh, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute a Memorandum of Agreement between the Board of Education and the Rocky Point School-Related Professional Association for the purpose of establishing an annual protocol for the posting of a stipend position.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

COMMITTEES ON SPECIAL EDUCATION/PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Upon a motion made by Scott Reh and seconded by John Lessler, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education votes to arrange for appropriate services pursuant to the recommendations of Schedule 4-7-14-A and Schedule 4-7-14- B.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

PERSONNEL

Upon a motion made by John Lessler and seconded by Diane Burke, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the attached Personnel changes.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Nofi opened the floor to questions and/or comments from meeting attendees.

- Mrs. McCauley requested information pertaining to the district’s decision not to lockdown the schools during a robbery of a local bank on April 2nd. Dr. Ring explained that a member of the district’s security team was on the scene and was advised by the police that the perpetrator had fled the scene and the police were not searching the immediate surrounding areas. Therefore, since this indication from the police would be the basis for the release of a lockout, there was no basis for the implementation of a lockout. Mrs. McCauley noted that it had come to her attention that a surrounding district was contacted by the Seventh Precinct regarding this event. Dr. Ring indicated that although he was not aware of the district to which Mrs. McCauley was referring, he did receive a call from the superintendent of a nearby district and he shared with that superintendent the information he had received from the police regarding the incident. Mrs. McCauley voiced her opinion that our district should have “erred on the side of caution” by enacting a lockout. Separately, referencing the recent evacuation/movement drill conducted at the Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School, Mrs. McCauley voiced her approval of the exercise and suggested that the drill be repeated in September for and with the students as “practice makes perfect.”

- Ms. Melanie Connelly engaged Dr. Ring in conversation concerning the time parameters of the robbery and when the decision was made not to go into lockout. Dr. Ring again discussed the protocols followed and remarked that if the police had not called off their search for the suspect a lockout would have been immediately put into effect. Ms. Connelly remarked that there is a need for better communication between the district office and the police during an event such as this. Dr. Ring advised Ms. Connelly that there will be subsequent discussions between the district and the Seventh Precinct to improve upon responses during emergency incidents.
- Ms. Jenny Andersson addressed the issue of the gates of the Joseph A. Edgar School being locked one day during the past weekend and inquired as to why. Dr. Ring advised that the district had received disturbance complaints from JAE neighbors and noted that the gates of the other schools were open. Dr. Ring confirmed with Mr. Hilton that the gates at JAE should be open from 7 a.m. to dusk seven days a week.
- Ms. Andersson asked Mrs. Sullivan if she would explain her reasons for voting no on the adoption of the revised and updated Next STEP Plan. Mrs. Sullivan responded that she was not against the entire plan but that she found it to be “cumbersome” and difficult to get through and process. Mrs. Sullivan stated that she has personal issues with the Alternative High School, the time teachers are taken out of their classrooms, the practice of guidance counselors being required to identify students at academic risk and the addition of more exams. Mrs. Sullivan referenced the low test scores on the January Regents by students who were prepped to take them and wondered if the costs of the programs were warranted considering the low number of students attending the classes. Mrs. Andersson thanked Mrs. Sullivan for her candidness.

There were no further questions or comments.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:58 p.m. a motion was made by Diane Burke and seconded by Susan Sullivan to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Jones
District Clerk